

M.O.M.

MICHIGAN OPPOSING MANDATORY VACCINES
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February 21, 2006

TO: Members of the House Committee on Health Policy

RE: Testimony offered for Senate Bill No. 728 (substitute S-1 as reported)

On behalf of the members of Michigan Opposing Mandatory Vaccines (M.O.M.), I am asking that SB No. 728 be amended to allow individuals whose records are contained in the Michigan Childhood Immunization Registry (MCIR) to **opt out** of the Registry.

Briefly, M.O.M. was formed in late 1994 to preserve a parent's right to decline the use of vaccines as a method of health care for themselves and their children. M.O.M. is not "anti-vaccine". We believe parents have the ultimate right and responsibility to make vaccine choices for their children. Most of our directors are health care professionals. M.O.M.'s membership is composed both of individuals who choose to have their children vaccinated and those who do not.

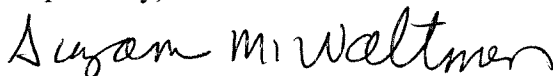
When MCIR legislation was being considered in 1996, M.O.M., along with other pro-family and pro-privacy organizations, asked for an **opt out** provision. We made this request because many parents we spoke with did not want their children's birth information in a statewide database. We made this request because we respect a well-informed parents' ability to make proper health care decisions for their children, and the confidential relationship a health care professional has with his/her patient.

At that time, legislators and the Michigan Department of Community Health assured our organization that the **record would be deleted when the individual reached the age of 20**. We were hopeful that this assurance would be honored.

M.O.M. respects an adult individual's ability and responsibility to keep track of information relating to his/her own personal health, as well as other important personal information. We respectfully ask that an **opt out provision** be added to SB No. 728 to ensure the privacy of health information for those individuals who want it.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Suzanne M. Waltman

President,

Michigan Opposing Mandatory Vaccines